

What is claimed is:

1. A contents processing apparatus comprising:
 - a contents information storage that stores contents,
 - 5 a contents management file for managing licenses for the contents, and plug-in modules for executing processing of the contents;
 - a plug-in setting device that sets plug-in modules corresponding to contents to be processed;
- 10 an operation recognition device that recognizes unlimited operations relating to execution of processing of the contents to be processed from the contents management file corresponding to the contents to be processed;
- 15 a plug-in function permission device that permits use of functions corresponding to the unlimited operations recognized by said operation recognition device among functions of the plug-in modules set by said plug-in setting device; and
- 20 a contents processing execution device that executes processing of the contents to be processed, according to the functions of the plug-in modules permitted by said plug-in function permission device.

2. A contents processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
 - said contents information storage further stores a plug-in management file for defining executable operative functions of the plug-in modules;
 - 30 said plug-in function permission device permits use of the plug-in modules set by said plug-in setting device according to contents of the plug-in management file; and
 - the contents processing apparatus further comprises an update device that updates the plug-in management file.
3. A contents processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the contents processing apparatus is

connected to an external apparatus via a communication network, and the contents management file is obtained from the external apparatus via the communication network.

4. A contents processing apparatus according to
5 claim 1, wherein the contents management file is
rewritable and capable of being obtained independently of
contents corresponding thereto.

5. A contents processing apparatus according to
claim 2, wherein the plug-in management file is rewritable
10 and capable of being obtained independently of contents
corresponding thereto.

6. A contents processing apparatus according to
claim 2, wherein the contents are inhibited from being
used when there is no contents management file
15 corresponding to the contents, and are also inhibited from
being processed when there is no plug-in management file
corresponding to the contents.

7. A contents processing program executed by a
contents processing apparatus including a contents
20 information storage that stores contents, a contents
management file for managing licenses for the contents,
and plug-in modules for executing processing of the
contents, comprising:

25 a plug-in setting module for setting plug-in modules
corresponding to contents to be processed;

an operation recognition module for recognizing
unlimited operations regarding execution of processing of
the contents to be processed from the contents management
file corresponding to the contents to be processed;

30 a plug-in function permission module for permitting
use of functions corresponding to the unlimited operations
recognized by said operation recognition module among
functions of the plug-in modules set by said plug-in
setting module; and

35 a contents processing execution module for executing

processing of the contents to be processed, according to the functions of the plug-in modules permitted by said plug-in function permission module.